

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PC-9367

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000236

International filing date (day/month/year)

12.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)

20.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/IP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000236

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000236

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-3</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-3</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-3</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP, 2001-113960, A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 24 April, 2001 (24.04.01)
 Document 2: JP, 2003-123779, A (Toyota Motor Corp.), 25 April, 2003 (25.04.03)
 Document 3: JP, 2003-260939, A (Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), 16 September, 2003 (16.09.03)

The subject matters of claims 1-3 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 cited in the ISR.

Document 1 describes an invention of a structure in which a fuel cell system is mounted on a motor vehicle, comprising an auxiliary machinery unit, a fuel cell unit, an accumulator and the auxiliary machinery for high voltage electric equipment disposed in this order in the longitudinal direction of the motor vehicle at a position below the floor of the car body.

Document 2 describes an invention in which a fuel cell stack is held between respectively two cross-members in the longitudinal direction of a motor vehicle.

Document 3 describes an invention in which the auxiliary machinery for high voltage electric equipment is disposed in an area between a side sill and a floor frame provided in the longitudinal direction of a motor vehicle at a position outside the floor frame in the width direction of the car.

The inventions of documents 1-3 belong to the same technical field of a structure in which a fuel cell system is mounted on a motor vehicle. So, a person skilled in the art could have easily (1) installed respectively two cross-members for protecting the fuel cell system parts from collision as in the invention described in document 2 and (2) disposed the auxiliary machinery for high voltage electric equipment in an area between a side sill and a floor frame as in the invention described in document 3, for the auxiliary machinery unit, fuel cell unit and accumulator described in document 1, to arrive at the subject matters of claims 1-3.